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RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT

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MAR 13 1964

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newsletter

January 1964

No. 59

CLOSE COOPERATION BRINGS SUCCESS IN SUMTER COUNTY, GEORGIA

There was no stopping a team of 29 business, agricultural and government leaders once they decided to carry out a RAD program in their area. These men, members of the local RAD committee, rolled up their sleeves and went to work in 1961, joining forces with the Americus and Sumter County Development Corporation, which had been working on area economic problems since 1955.

The results: A fully equipped 400-acre industrial park creating 884 new jobs, lakes for fishing, water skiing, improved community services, and FHA credit to diversify farming and build new rural homes.



Faced with a serious exodus of its rural citizens, people in Sumter County, Georgia, decided to do something rather than just talk about their problems. In 1955 they formed the Americus and Sumter County Development Corporation and raised a \$650,000 revolving fund to develop new industry. Here's how it worked:

By issuing 3% debentures, the Corporation raised \$35,000 to help build a refrigerated body plant. This money, repaid within a year, was then used to purchase about 400 acres at the edge of town. The tract was subdivided into industrial sites; streets paved; and the city built a water tank, dug wells and ran in electricity, natural gas, and sewage lines. Then the Corporation made a loan to a mobile home builder. This 20-year loan is being repaid in monthly installments.

The Corporation put up its lease on the mobile home company in borrowing \$100,000 from a memorial fund. Two local banks added \$35,000 so the Development Corporation could loan \$135,000 to a company that would manufacture mobile home furniture.



The Corporation also deeded a 20-acre tract to local citizens who built a second mobile home plant, costing \$200,000. Two years later, with \$75,000 raised by selling 5% debentures, the Corporation helped build a hardware manufacturing plant. All this adds up to 884 new jobs created since 1960 and 20 new or expanded businesses in the area.



Here's what the Sumter County RAD program is doing in other fields:

Community Improvements--New schools, expanded library services, a new expressway, a \$1.6 million urban renewal project, expansion of airport runways, a new \$4 million home for the aged, and two new churches.

Recreation--A new 160-acre lake for water skiing and three hunting and fishing preserves head the list.

Public Facilities--A \$289,000 Corps of Engineers' flood control project provided temporary construction jobs. The city expanded its water supply and sewage systems.

Housing--100 new rental homes and apartments were built by the Americus Housing Authority and another 31 new rural homes were built with the help of \$191,180 in Farmers Home Administration loans.



Farm Credit--FHA is supplying credit not otherwise available. Farmers have substantially increased their income by including livestock in their operations. Through both the Farm Ownership and Rural Housing program, rural people are building new homes and essential farm service buildings.

RAD RECREATION LOAN WINS PRAISE

A Hubbard, Iowa, newspaper says "the Department of Agriculture won't have to battle some 128,000 bushels of corn as surplus" because of a \$38,000 recreation loan made by the Farmers Home Administration.

The loan enabled a local recreation club to buy 80 acres of land, half of which was planted to corn each year. The paper figured that over the 40-year life of the loan, 128,000 bushels of corn would be kept off the markets.

The paper continued: "This is on only 40 acres of land. If you multiply this times several projects such as ours you will arrive at quite an astonishing figure. This is one way of combating surpluses and providing much needed recreational facilities at the same time."

RAD BRINGS SUNNY SMILES TO STAR VALLEY

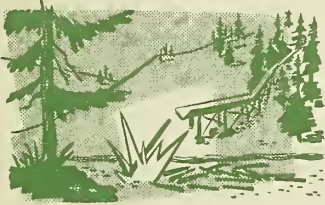
"Optimism has...replaced pessimism, and a positive attitude has replaced hopelessness" in the Star Valley area of Lincoln County, Wyoming.

These comments--from a progress report by the Star Valley Development Association--tell how RAD brought new jobs and new hope to the Lincoln County area.

"A year ago the hospital was \$13,000 in the red and now it is \$6,000 in the black," reports Dr. O. B. Perkes, president of the Development Association. "School teachers' wages have been increased. Old bills are being paid. We are finding ways to supplement our basic dairy agriculture and keep more of our young people in our valley. There has been much less unemployment this summer."

What brought about this change?

The major factors responsible for this upsurge were a new lumber company and an airplane plant. Dr. Perkes credits the Area Redevelopment Act (ARA) and the local development committee for much of the area's progress.



An ARA loan of \$357,000, a \$100,000 loan from a private bank, plus \$55,000 from the Star Valley Development Association got the Star Valley Lumber Company off the drawing boards and in operation. A Small Business Administration loan provided over half of the \$415,000 working capital.

"It has taken a lot of work. The Development Association held numerous meetings--some at 7 a.m., before work. One year...of planning, meetings, obstacles and patience...passed before ground was broken in May for "the Star Valley lumber plant," Dr. Perkes said. The new mill opened two months ago with 20 employees and has a goal of 110 new jobs.

Other mills were built or expanded to utilize the timber resources. With the aid of a \$200,000 SBA loan, the Greys River Lumber Company built a new sawmill. And another mill, Cliff Creek Lumber Company, doubled its production.

Practically all of the timber comes from Bridger National Forest. Forest Service officials estimate that if the Star Valley Lumber Company goes ahead with its plans for a two-shift operation they will need about 25,000,000 board feet of timber a year. The Forest is primarily in Englemann spruce, which is cut in such a way that it reforest itself.



An increased forest insect control program this summer provided about 150 temporary jobs for students. Last winter, a \$100,000 Accelerated Public Works project by the Forest Service provided 50 temporary jobs during the slack winter season. It also provided long-range benefits--better camping facilities, additional directional signs and three new foot bridges.

"This summer the camp ground was full every night," Dr. Perkes said.

The combined efforts of local capital and management reactivated a small airplane plant that specializes in agricultural spray planes. This created 40 permanent jobs. With orders several months ahead of production, the company already is showing a profit. The plant is staffed by part-time farmers from the surrounding area.

"Local businessmen and the Development Association are proud of their efforts and investment of their own funds certainly improved their interest in these projects," Dr. Perkes reported.

RESEARCH PAYS OFF IN NEW JOBS--NEW PRODUCTS

From the research labs have come important new advances that are creating new jobs and new uses for old products, giving RAD a boost from the bayous of Louisiana to the apple-growing regions of Washington State.



Last year, a \$760,000 plant went into operation at Cashmere, Washington, producing an apple-juice concentrate--~~the first~~ commercial use of a new concentrating process developed by USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

Operated by Tree Top, Incorporated, a cooperative, the plant is expected to furnish a market for 30,000 tons of apples a year and create about 100 new jobs for people in the Cashmere area.

On November 4, 1963, Corbett Associates, Inc., received a \$105,100 industrial loan from the Area Redevelopment Administration of the Department of Commerce to help build a \$204,010 instant sweetpotato flake plant in Villa Platte, La.

The plant will mean jobs for about 130 people and a widened market for sweetpotatoes grown in the area, because the ARS-development added sweetpotatoes to the convenience food list. There'll be more sweetpotatoes on the nation's dinner tables since this new instant process will make it easier for busy homemakers to use sweetpotatoes.

In Mauston, Wisconsin, an ARS-developed process for producing potato flakes in addition to producing frozen french fries, corn, peas, and beans will be used in a plant that is expected to provide 500 jobs for local people. ARA helped make the plant possible with a \$1,835,096 loan approved in July, 1963. The plant will be operated by Ore-Ida Foods, Incorporated.



Other Research Paying Off. ARS research has helped develop new markets for other agricultural products, and regain markets that had been lost. For example, the use of synthetic resins in paints had grown, making inroads on the linseed oil market. ARS developed a water-emulsion paint that uses linseed oil, and since its introduction, the paint industry has increased its use of linseed oil by 33 million pounds.



Improved cotton batting, shrink-resistant wool, and stretch and flame-resistant cottons promise to regain some of the cotton and wool markets recently invaded by synthetic materials.

Improved harvesting practices and processing methods developed by ARS have helped increase farmers' incomes from maple sirup. During 1963, central evaporator plants were working in Ogema, and Anawa, Wisconsin, Evart, Michigan; Chagrin Falls, Ohio; Jacksonville, Vermont; and in Westford, and Bainbridge, New York.

Last year, ARS also prepared a survey on rural family spending and consumption in a low-income area in Kentucky. The survey included information on housing; home production of food; family expenditures for food, clothing, and other needs; and job-related expenditures of employed women. These ARS findings, scheduled for publication early this year, will help workers in low-income areas identify problems and overcome them.